
FISHING AND THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

To thousands of Marylanders who draw their livelihood from the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, a major accomplishment of the 1960's was the reversal of a long decline in the production of oysters. In one of his first acts after taking office, Governor Tawes reorganized the Department of Tidewater Fisheries and launched a crash program to rehabilitate the marine resources of the Bay. Oyster production, the mainstay of the State's fishing industry, hit an all-time low in 1962, then, responding to an intensified seeding program started in 1960, began a continuing upward trend. It was the Governor's view that only through long-term government-industry cooperation could the State's seafood industry return again to the vitality of a few decades ago.

ADDRESS, SEAFOOD BOOSTER DINNER

SALISBURY

November 16, 1963

I am most grateful to the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association for inviting me to attend this second annual Seafood Booster Dinner.

In a group such as this, I do not feel that it is necessary that I emphasize my deep interest in the seafood industry. As all of you know, I enjoy the very closest ties with the people who earn their livelihood from the bountiful tidal waters of our State. It should have surprised no one, therefore, that when I became Governor, I announced that one of my principal aims would be to revitalize and rehabilitate the marine resources of the Chesapeake Bay and the other tidal waters of our State.

You will recall that one of the first acts of my Administration was to reorganize the Department of Tidewater Fisheries, with this purpose in mind. I remember a speech I made in the summer following my first inauguration in which I expressed the hope that this division of State government would go down in history as the organization which brought new life and new strength to our declining seafood industry. At the time, I outlined what I considered to be the responsibilities of the newly-organized department. "In the future," I said,